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(56) Documents Cited

GB 1596157 A GB 0519243 A

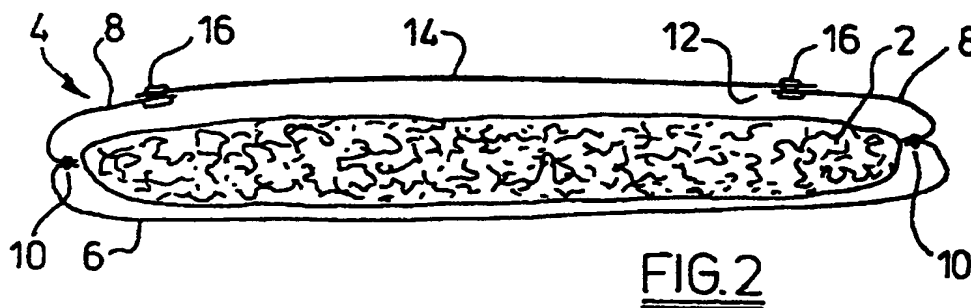
(58) Field of Search

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(54) Soft furnishings cover for easier insertion of filling

(57) A cover for an item of soft furnishings (such as a duvet, one or more blankets, a straw mattress or a cushion) is provided with a base part (6) and an upper part (8) provided with a generally central opening (12), and a removable closure panel (14). In use, the closure panel is removed and the duvet (2) is laid on the top of the cover. The edge portions of the duvet are then tucked under the border section of the upper part of the cover, and the closure panel is then secured in place with press stud fasteners, buttons, hook and loop type fasteners, or the like.

It is found that by using this method the duvet can be readily inserted within its cover.



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At least one drawing originally filed was informal and the print reproduced here is taken from a later filed formal copy.

The claims were filed later than the filing date within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1990.

A COVER FOR AN ITEM OF SOFT FURNISHING

This invention relates particularly but not exclusively to a cover for a duvet or bed quilt, ie a cover which is used temporarily to enclose the duvet or quilt. It also relates to covers for other soft furnishing, eg cushions.

It is common practice to contain a duvet within a soft fabric bag-like cover in order to prevent soiling of the duvet. The cover is removable to enable it to be regularly and frequently laundered and generally comprises a rectangular envelope, permanently closed along three sides and closable along the remaining side by means of buttons or press stud fasteners, or so-called "poppers".

To prepare the duvet for use it is inserted into the cover and this operation is difficult due to the size of both duvet and cover. Great difficulties are experienced by the person concerned in not only inserting the duvet but in ensuring that its contents are fairly evenly distributed about its area to provide comfort and even warmth in use.

The majority of duvets are about two metres in length and from one to two metres in width, and as only one end of the cover is openable it is not readily possible to ensure that the end of the duvet which is inserted first into the cover is in fact located fully towards the bottom end of the cover.

It has been proposed in US patents 2821723, 2810921 and 2799870, to provide a button-on sheet as a cover for a blanket to prevent bodily contact with the blanket.

It is also proposed in US patents 1844291 and 1409961 to provide a shield for a bed quilt wherein edge portions of a quilt are protected by inwardly turned marginal portions of a cover, leaving the upper, usually decorative face of the

quilt exposed. The margins of the cover may be fastened to the quilt itself by poppers, knotted ribbons or even safety pins.

None of the above disclosures address the problems present with regard to a complete cover for a duvet or quilt.

It is an object of this invention to provide a cover which attempts to obviate the aforesaid difficulties, and/or to provide improvements generally.

In accordance with the invention there is provided a cover for items of soft furnishings, eg duvets comprising a base part approximating to the full length and width of such an item intended to be covered, an upper part comprising a peripheral border permanently secured at its outer edges to outer edges of the base part, and a further sheet-like part removably secured at its peripheral portion to the inner edges of the peripheral border.

The sheet-like part may be secured to the peripheral border by means of buttons, press stud fastenings or by a hook and loop-type fastener.

In accordance with the invention there is also provided a method of assembling a soft furnishing filling within a cover therefor, comprising inserting a filling into the cover through a generally central opening in one of the two main faces of the cover, and then closing the opening with a removable closure panel.

The above and other aspects of the invention will become clear from the following description which is given by way of example only with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a duvet in its cover in accordance with the invention;

Figure 2 is a transverse section view of a duvet and cover.

In the illustrative embodiment of the invention a duvet 2 of conventional type and form is housed within a cover 4. The cover comprises a base part 6 having a marginal upper part 8 joined to the base part by a seam 10. The marginal part 8 is so formed as to provide a rectangular opening 12. A top cover 14 of sheet material is connected to the innermost edge of the marginal part 8 by press studs or "popper" type fasteners 16. Alternatively, hook and loop-type fasteners may be provided instead of "poppers", or the fastening may be effected by interwoven lacing.

In preparation for use the top cover 14 is removed leaving the remainder of the duvet cover in a flat condition with its opening 12 exposed. The duvet is laid on top of the cover and its edge portions are then simply tucked inside the marginal section of the cover between the base part 6 and the marginal upper parts 8. The top cover sheet is then secured in place by the press stud fasteners or "poppers" 16 and the covered duvet is ready for use.

It is found that by this system the duvet can be readily inserted within its cover. Moreover, the top cover 14 may be of a different pattern to that of the remainder of the cover, and a number of alternative designs may be used in place on the cover. For example, the top cover 14 may have printed thereon nursery rhyme characters for use in the case of a duvet cover on the bed of a small girl, and a football team's colours when the same bed is used on a different occasion by a boy.

Modifications which could be made while remaining within the scope of the invention include that the opening need not be exactly central, but merely sufficiently so to obtain the benefit of ease of the invention. In addition, the opening need not be symmetrical, and can be of any shape.

Although the illustrative embodiment has been described with respect to a cover for a duvet, the same cover can, of course, be used for covering a quilt or a palliasse, or one or more blankets or other bed cover.

Without departing from the scope of the invention, a cover of the same type may be used in conjunction with a cushion.

CLAIMS

1 A cover for an item of soft furnishing
comprising a base part approximating to the full
5 length and width of such an item intended to be
covered, an upper part comprising a peripheral border
permanently secured at its outer edges to the outer
edges of the base part, and a further sheet-like part
removably secured at its peripheral portion to the
10 inner edges of the peripheral border.

2 A cover as claimed in claim 1 wherein the
sheet-like part is removably secured to the peripheral
border by means of buttons, press stud fastenings or
by hook and loop type fastener.

15 3 A cover as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2
wherein the peripheral border is so formed to provide
a rectangular opening.

4 A cover as claimed in any one of the
preceding claims wherein the peripheral border is so
20 formed to provide a central opening.

5 A method of assembling a soft furnishing
filling within a cover therefor comprising inserting
a filling into the cover through a generally central
opening in one of the two main faces of the cover, and
25 then closing the opening with a removable closure
panel.

6 A cover for items of soft furnishings
substantially as hereinbefore described with reference
to the drawings.

7 A method of assembling a soft furnishing filling within a cover substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the drawings.

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Relevant Technical Fields

(i) UK Cl (Ed.M) A4M (M12); A4S (S11, S12)

(ii) Int Cl (Ed.5) A47C 31/10; A47G 9/02

Search Examiner
 S J QUICK

Date of completion of Search
 27 JANUARY 1994

Databases (see below)

(i) UK Patent Office collections of GB, EP, WO and US patent specifications.

Documents considered relevant following a search in respect of Claims :-
 1-7

(ii)

Categories of documents

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| <p>X: Document indicating lack of novelty or of inventive step.</p> <p>Y: Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of the same category.</p> <p>A: Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.</p> | <p>I: Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of the present application.</p> <p>E: Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of the present application.</p> <p>&: Member of the same patent family; corresponding document.</p> |
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Category	Identity of document and relevant passages		Relevant to claim(s)
X	GB 1596157	(NRDC) 19.08.81, see whole document, especially Figures 1 and 2 and page 1, lines 85-94	1 and 3-5
X	GB 519243	(T SLATER AND BOOTH & FOX LTD) 20.03.1940, see whole document, especially Figures 1 and 3 and page 2, lines 31-41, 55-63 and 90-95	1-7

Databases: The UK Patent Office database comprises classified collections of GB, EP, WO and US patent specifications as outlined periodically in the Official Journal (Patents). The on-line databases considered for search are also listed periodically in the Official Journal (Patents).

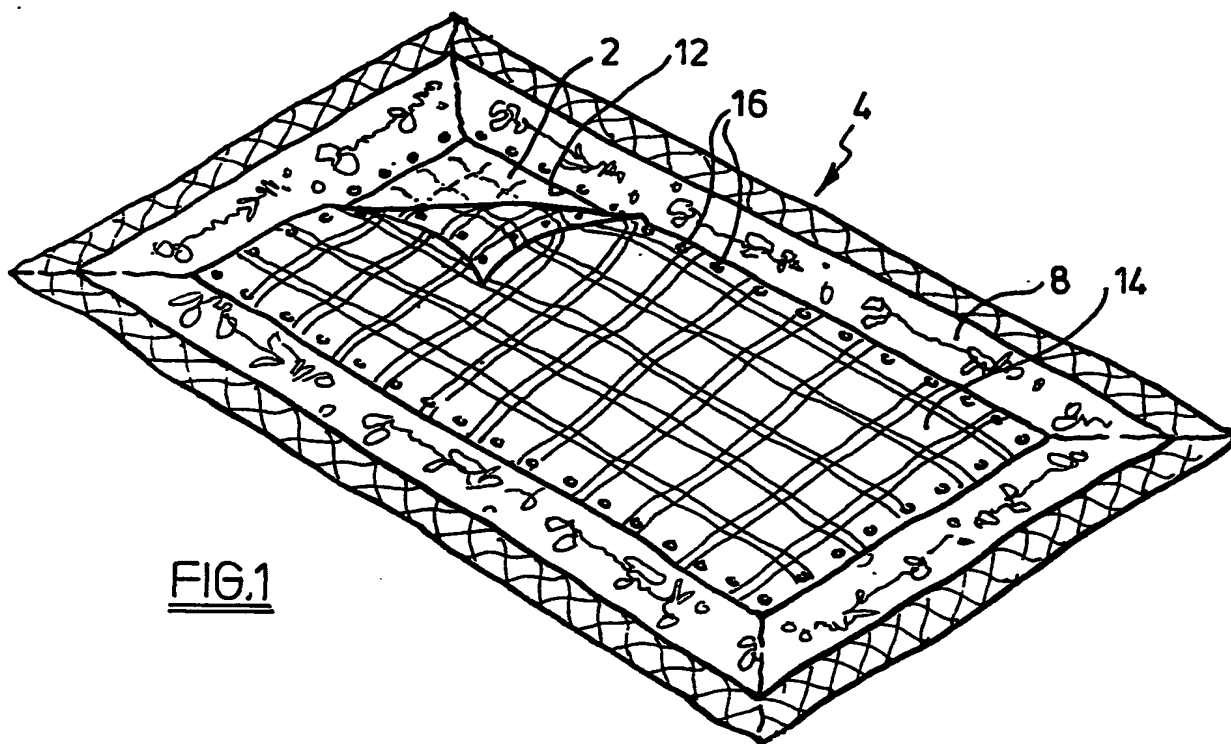


FIG. 1

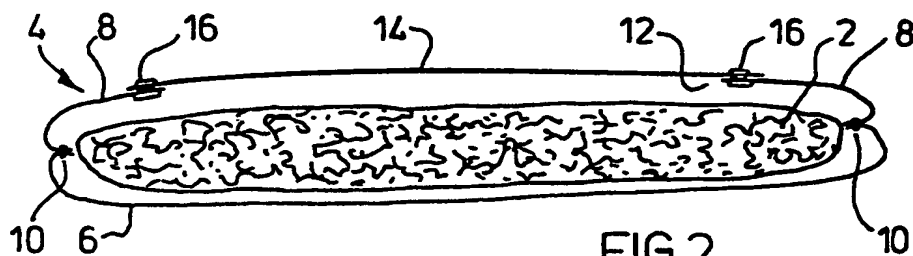


FIG. 2